

Maine Student/Parent Mock Election

National Student/Parent Mock Election Day is October 30, 2008. We will be hosting a few regional “Rally and Tally” type events where students from across the state can meet candidates and watch the student vote results come in from schools across the state. Conduct a mock election in your school and send us your results or attend a rally. We will prepare a package for you with materials from the National Student/Parent Mock Election Program and will submit state totals to their national website. For more information visit: www.nationalmockelection.org/ and the SOS website.

Congressional Medal of Honor Project

A great idea for a Service Learning Project, students will study a local Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, work with the community to record an existing memorial or establish a memorial for the recipient. Research, design, presentations, fundraising and an enduring memorial for students to be proud of are the rewards. Learn more by visiting: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/kids/homepage.htm>.

Native American History and Culture Essay Contest

Open to both middle and high schools, this contest is designed to give students an opportunity to showcase what they have learned through Maine Native American Studies. Winners receive a \$100 US Savings Bond and an opportunity for their class to view rare Native American Treaties at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Essays will be due in November. Find out more at: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/nativeamerican/index.htm.

Maine National History Day

An opportunity to meet MLR standards in many disciplines, History Day is part of a nationwide program that offers middle and high school students a chance to compete at the state level by producing a historical paper, exhibit, documentary, website or performance. There are individual and group divisions in all but the paper category.

The state contest will be held at the University of Maine at Augusta on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. First and second place state winners in nine divisions qualify to attend National History Day at the University of Maryland in June. To learn more visit www.nhd.org or our website. If you would like to receive registration materials in the fall, send your mailing address to nicole.ladner@maine.gov.

Maine Constitution Poster and Essay Contest

One of our most popular student programs, this contest gives grades K-12 an opportunity to “show what they know” about Maine. Winners receive a \$100 US Savings Bond and an invite for their class to view the original Maine Constitution at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. All participants receive an award certificate. Submissions are due in early March. To learn more visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/fyigames/const_essay08.html

Eighth Grade Citizenship Awards

125 schools are honoring their graduating eighth graders with the Secretary of State’s Citizenship Award this year. Students are recognized for their civic awareness, scholastic achievements and community service. Many schools request a legislator to present the framed certificate at their awards ceremony. We will continue to offer our online nomination application, simplifying the process for you.

For details visit: www.maine.gov/sos/kids/fyigames/8th_citi.html.